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# [The Romanesque Christ, Made Modest]

Boyer Rickel

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BOYER RICKEL

*[The Romanesque Christ, made modest]*

The Romanesque Christ, made modest  
by the taste of a later century, his lambent  
lapis-painted loincloth stripped  
to plain gray-veined wood,  
hangs bleeding over my head  
in an apse across from a lintel carved  
half cock, half scorpion who,  
in the Medieval bestiary, could kill  
with a look. A walk through the stone  
volumes of reconstructed cloisters  
in one long in-breath. Do fish know they  
swim in water? is how I feel, faithless,  
adrift in an internal expanse  
in search of something akin to  
the atmosphere of a familiar body.